

For the past 24 years, Community School Board 12 has held a scholarship dinner dance in recognition of their students. The ultimate objective of the function is to raise funds in order to award savings bonds to seven outstanding students in each of the 24 elementary and secondary schools.

Over the past few years, Community School District 12 and the Community School Board have collaborated in the effort. The purpose of the scholarships is twofold. First, students who have excelled academically during the school year will be acknowledged and given praise. Second, the scholarship serve as an incentive to all students to strive for overall collegiate achievement. The worth of this event is unquestionable, and its effect can be long lasting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Community School Board 12 Scholarship dinner a success and in congratulating this year's recipients.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAN JOSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the First Baptist Church of San Jose, the "Church on the Hill". The church has been a cornerstone of our community since the time of the gold miners. Even before California was established as a state, the church on the Hill was providing guidance to her citizens, under the leadership of her first pastor, the Reverend Osgood Church Wheeler.

The second oldest Baptist church in the state, the church began services on May 19, 1850. In a tent made of blue jeans in the infant city of San Jose, the church first met with 8 members, 6 of whom were women. This Friday the church will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Through each one of those 150 years the congregation has grown as the community around it grew. It has endured three separate fires which each time destroyed its building, earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. It has flourished through 30 Presidents, two World Wars, and the Great Depression, and today the church is stronger than it has ever been.

Whether meeting in the rural setting of orchards and farmland, or in the center of the high tech world, the Church has continued to serve the people and touch the lives of the thousands who have walked through its doors. Pastor Dennis Henderson has the honor of presiding over the congregation today, and I congratulate him on his leadership. His vision will lead the congregation into its future complex, a facility befitting the modern community it serves.

As the church celebrates its sesquicentennial, it can be proud to be a shining light in the capital of Silicon Valley. The services the members of the congregation provide greatly enrich the community of San Jose. It is my honor to pay tribute to the First Baptist Church on this momentous occasion, and I am proud

to represent the community in which it has thrived for so long. I wish the Church on the Hill the best of luck for another 150 years of inspiration.

MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 14, 2000, Mother's Day, I was proud to join countless mothers and family members in sending a loud message to Congress. It was a message to those Members who for too long have listened to the gun lobbyists and ignored the wishes of the mothers of this country.

How many more children will be lost to gun violence before this Congress acts? How many more families, in every part of this country, will have to bury their young before the message of passing sensible gun safety laws is heard? And how long will mothers have to live in fear for their children's safety before some in Congress admit that guns are robbing families and this nation of our most precious possessions?

The Chicago Tribune, in an editorial today, wrote that over the years, the voice for gun safety has been "muted and polite." But the editorial went on to say that "On Sunday it was loud, powerful and plentiful. When that voice comes to be heard on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Election Day and every other day of the year, the political leaders propping up the gun lobby will have a new reason to tremble."

That is true. This Sunday was the start of a movement. This is a movement that will help bring about change and save lives. It is a movement that will shape the future of this country. Mothers will continue to march until we get the job done.

WHY MOMS MUST KEEP MARCHING

Congratulations to the organizers of the Million Mom March. Whether or not they actually achieved their lofty seven-figure goal, their turnout was extremely impressive. In this debate, numbers count.

Hundreds of thousands of mothers and others turned out Sunday in Washington and in towns across the country, including Chicago. Their message was loud and clear: America needs to get a handle on guns. Even after several years of declining violent crime rates, firearms deaths in the U.S. are astonishingly high compared to much of the rest of the world.

While the moms marched, the politicians and lobbyists who have stifled gun legislation in Washington scrambled to put up a brave front.

The National Rifle Association countered with soft and fuzzy TV ads preaching gun safety. That's a fine sentiment, but it's a bogus one when it comes from the folks whose primary mission is to prop up a furious and freewheeling market in guns, including guns whose only purpose is to kill human beings.

Even in the wake of the horrendous Columbine High School shootings, a stalemate in Congress has blocked modest gun control measures. It's time to break that stalemate.

Those in the Capitol who still think they can duck and dodge this one, all those moms on Sunday called them out.

There has been a frustrating political dynamic at play in this country. Support for gun legislation is widespread, but it hasn't been particularly vocal.

Those who oppose tougher gun laws are in the minority, but they are well organized, they are fervent in their cause and they have made themselves heard.

That was clear in Illinois during recent debate over Gov. George Ryan's call to reinstate a felony gun law. Skittish legislators said most of their callers opposed Ryan's position. But polling showed overwhelming support for it. That included the vast majority of voters in the districts of 12 Republican senators who did not support the tougher gun law. Ultimately, Ryan prevailed, after threatening to keep legislators in Springfield until they say things his way.

But many in Congress and the legislatures still tremble in fear of the gun lobby. That's why the moms march was so important. Heretofore that voice, the voice for gun restriction, has been muted and polite. On Sunday it was loud, powerful and plentiful. When that voice comes to be heard on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Election Day and every other day of the year, the political leaders propping up the gun lobby will have a new reason to tremble.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES F. AND
ROBERTA T. BUESCHER

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal pleasure that I recognize my very dear friends Jim and Bobbi Buescher of Manhattan Beach, California on the happy occasion of their Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Marriage, today May 17, 2000.

Jim and Bobbi were married on May 17, 1975 at St. John of God Church in Norwalk, California, which is located in my Thirty-fourth district. Bobbi is the sister of my Chief of Staff, Mr. Chuck Fuentes.

Roberta Theresa Fuentes was born on November 17, 1948, the daughter of the late Robert H. "Bob" Fuentes and Theresa M. Fuentes (nee Palomares). Reared in Norwalk and later Cerritos, California, Bobbi was educated at Saint John of God Catholic Grammar School, where she graduated in 1962; Excelsior High School, where she graduated in 1966; and attended Cerritos Community College.

Bobbi Fuentes, a popular and attentive student, was elected by her High School classmates as a Varsity Song Leader and as a Princess of the Homecoming Court in 1965. At Cerritos College, she continued her student activism as a member of Delta Phi Omega Sorority, and was again selected for the College Pep Squad as a Song Leader. She was honored by the Brothers of Sigma Phi Fraternity as their "Fraternity Sweetheart" in 1967-68 and was elected a Princess of the 1968 Homecoming Court. A Journalism Major, Bobbi was also served on the staff of the student newspaper Talon Marks.

In 1970 Bobbi was named Miss Artesia-Cerritos and participated in the Miss California

May 17, 2000

Beauty Pageant. Bobbi has been employed as a Flight Attendant for Trans World Airlines for thirty years and has traveled extensively throughout the world.

James Frederick Buescher was born on June 6, 1945, the son of the late Fred M. Buescher and Elizabeth Buescher (nee Patterson). Reared in Ferguson and later Washington, Missouri, Jim was educated at Ferguson Elementary School and Ferguson High School, where he was elected by his classmates as President of the Student Council. Jim graduated from Ferguson High School in 1963.

A serious and accomplished student, Jim attended MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois and transferred to the University of Kansas where he earned his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration in 1968. While at KU, Jim was an Active member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Following his studies at KU, Jim moved to Southern California where he assumed the position of Vice President of Hazel of California, a specialty goods manufacturing company based in Santa Fe Springs. There he rose to prominence in business and community affairs.

Within a relatively short period of time, Jim Buescher was elevated to President and Chief Operating Officer of Hazel of California. At this point, he was invited to join the very prestigious Young President's Organization, where he served a term as President. He was also active as a member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce and Industrial League. Jim was elected President of the Chamber in 1984.

Following his illustrious career at Hazel/Jostens, Jim assumed a partnership investment in Gift-O-Rama, a giftware supplier based in Cerritos, California. A recognized leader in the specialty goods industry, Jim reentered the business as Chief Operating Officer of Idea Man Incorporated, based in Los Angeles. He continues in his leadership position under the new ownership of Ha-Lo Industries, Incorporated, based in Chicago, Illinois.

Together Jim and Bobbi have celebrated twenty-five years of marriage, enjoy world travel and life at the beach in sunny Southern California. They will be joined by many family members and friends at a Surprise Silver Wedding Anniversary Reception, at the Museum of Flying—Santa Monica Airport, on Sunday, May 20, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to extend to them, on behalf of my husband Frank and my family, our heartfelt congratulations to Jim and Bobbi Buescher on this very happy occasion and to wish them every possible happiness and many more years together.

INTERNET ACCESS CHARGE
PROHIBITION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1291, the Internet Access Charge

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Prohibition Act. The expansion of the Internet has been a source of incredible growth in our economy. I do not think anyone wishes to slow down this incredible growth engine by allowing multiple or discriminatory taxes. This is one of the reasons there is so much support for H.R. 1291. By the same token, Internet telephone service has the potential to grow exponentially, but only if it is not subjected to per-minute charges.

The way Internet telephony is taxed will dictate the extent to which millions of Americans will have access to this new and innovative service. It is important that consumers have a range of choices when it comes to telephone services, which is why it is incumbent upon Congress to preserve competition in this industry.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should carefully consider the issue of the appropriate way to regulate new Internet applications in a way that promotes growth and provides competition to consumers. Additionally, the FCC should also study the issue of whether or not an appropriate charge needs to be imposed on Internet providers in the future for the sake of preserving universal service. The bottom line should be to make sure that all Americans have access to affordable telecommunications services.

IN HONOR OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED
DNESTR MOLDAVIAN
REPUBLIC (DMR)

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I speak on behalf of the people of the self-proclaimed Dnestr Moldavian Republic (DMR).

Moldova, inhabited by a Romanian majority, declared its independence of the USSR in 1992. However, Moscow did not recognize their independence. Consequently, a conflict has ensued between the ethnic Russian minority and the Romanian majority, resulting in the arrest of six Romanians who have been jailed every since.

The case of the "Tiraspol Six," as they came to be known, was taken up by many international organizations. According to a 1998 Amnesty International Report, "Their trial has apparently failed to meet international standards of fairness, and the men had allegedly been prosecuted for political reasons, because of their membership of the Christian Democratic Popular Front, a Moldovan party favoring reunification with Romania." While two of the men have been released, four others remain in jail, suffering inhumane living conditions, denial of medical treatment and of visits by international organizations. I cannot make a formal judgement on the merits of the Tiraspol Six case, but I will defer to the findings of international human rights and pro-Democracy organizations. Amnesty International urged the authorities to "conduct prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of ill-treatment by police and to bring those responsible to justice."

These four men remain in jail today awaiting a fair and open day in court and a right to de-

fend themselves against the charges made against them. The United States should help to promote freedom and democracy in region, by advocating just and fair treatment in court of the people of Moldova.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 183. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 326—the Sense of the House Resolution on the Responsibility of the Federal Government concerning the Los Alamos fire.

FAIRNESS IN ASBESTOS
COMPENSATION ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today I am in opposition of H.R. 1283, the Fairness in Asbestos Compensation Act, which was recently reported out of the House Judiciary Committee. Before it comes to the House floor, I want to make clear my opposition to this bill that creates a windfall for the asbestos industry but denies fair compensation to tens of thousands of American workers and their families.

Bailing out an industry that has caused harm to millions of Americans, is the ultimate slap in the face to the millions of victims affected by the deadly hazards of asbestos. Only because our court system provides accountability for these manufacturers was this deadly threat finally stopped. Now, it is no surprise that asbestos manufacturers want to use the Federal Government to override tort statutes in various States, which have brought them to law. Even more troubling, the bill will prohibit approximately 50 percent of injured asbestos victims from compensation due to new and unreasonable medical standards.

Furthermore, punitive damages would be capped at three times compensatory damages if the victim goes through an administrative hearing. Most troubling, if the victim goes to court directly, punitive damages would be prohibited entirely.

The bill forgets all scientific and health related research that has proven the link between asbestos exposure and lung disease. The bill creates a strict burden of proof for establishing that asbestos-induced diseases were caused by asbestos exposure. There is no need for this elevated burden of proof since the medical literature by the medical community supports the current substantial level of proof now required. It is estimated that under the bill, about one-half of all asbestos cancer cases now eligible for compensation would be thrown out. For the first time, asbestos lung cancer victims will need to prove that they have no smoking history; if a victim has